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ELIMINATION OF CROSS COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO 1979 CROP SOYBEANS

JUNE 26, 1980.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. WHITTEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 7142]

The Committee on Appropriations, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 7142) to eliminate any cross compliance requirement as a condition of eligibility for loans and purchases in the case of 1979 crop soybeans, having considered the same, report thereon without amendment.

EXPLANATION OF COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 7142 was reported from the Committee on Agriculture on June 11, 1980, and was referred to the Committee on Appropriations for consideration as provided in section 401(b) of Public Law 93-344 (the Congressional Budget Act of 1974).

Section 401(b) provides that when an authorizing committee reports a bill containing entitlement authority and the entitlement authority is in excess of the amount allocated under the budget resolution, the bill shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations. The Appropriations Committee then has 15 legislative days in which to deal with the bill. The committee's authority over the bill relates only to the cost provisions of the legislation and not to the legislative policy it contains. After 15 days the committee is automatically discharged from further consideration of the bill if no action has been taken.

H.R. 7142 was referred to the Committee on Appropriations because it proposes a possible entitlement in fiscal year 1980.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Today, farmers and others engaged in agriculture are faced with the most desperate economic conditions they have faced in decades. The cost of production has been escalating at a rapid rate. Commodity

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prices have fallen to new low levels. The farmers, in order to stay in business and thereby protect the food supply of the American people, must have a more equitable treatment both in terms of price increase and sustained volume, both of which are absolutely essential to our overall economy.

The committee points out that the Secretary, under existing law, has the authority to implement the provisions of the bill, including the auhority contained in the charter of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Therefore, the committee urges the Secretary to take action under existing law to shore up the prices of agricultural commodities.

The committee has some reservations about this and similar programs since the Congress is presently questioning the entire area of entitlements. If the Congress is to maintain its ability to establish priorities and control government spending, some changes will have to be made.

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee estimates that the enactment of H.R. 7142 will have no inflationary impact on the national economy.

OTHER BUDGET REPORTS

Since the committee has made no recommendation as to the substance of this legislation and has not recommended amendments to the bill as reported by the Committee on Agriculture, no reports are required under section 308(a)(1) (A), (B), and (C) of the Congressional Budget Act. These reports compare committee recommendations to the budget resolution, make 5-year projections of outlays, and estimate impact on State and local governments.

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